

(Current as of Oct. 28, 2020)

The city of Kaiserslautern has been in the so-called "alert level" (more than 50 new infections per 100,000 people in one week) according to the Corona Warning and Action Plan RLP since the day before yesterday. Accordingly, the task force resulting from this classification met this morning for the first time, consisting of representatives of the city administration and the health department. The task force is headed by Detlef Placzek, President of the State Office for Social Affairs, Youth and Care, who was connected by telephone. Representatives of other state authorities and municipal umbrella organizations were also on the line, including Fabian Kirsch from the RLP Association of Cities and Towns and ADD President Thomas Linnertz.

As a result, the city is now drafting a general ordinance with tightened hygiene measures that will be valid for four weeks. Here is an overview of the main measures:

- Mandatory masks in the entire pedestrian zone and in the old town (Altstadt).
- Up to and including November 8, 2020, masks will be mandatory at all schools in the city of Kaiserslautern for the entire school period, including in classes. Exceptions are elementary school, the primary level at special schools as well as schools with the focus on holistic development or motoric (physical) development.
- In adult education, vocational training or further education and in private educational institutions, a mouth and nose cover must also be worn during lessons. This measure now also applies to theory lessons in driving schools, up to and including 8 November 2020.
- The number of participants at events in closed rooms, where no assigned seats can be allocated, is limited to 50.
- The number of participants at outdoor events will be limited to 100.
- From 2300 to 0600 there is a ban on the sale of alcohol. This applies without exception to all commercial enterprises and restaurants.
- The number of guests in the catering trade is limited to five persons per table from a maximum of two households; food and beverages may only be served and consumed at the table. The bar area is to be closed for the stay of guests.
- Fairs, flea markets and antique markets are prohibited.
- Brothels are closed. Exemptions can be requested from the Office of Law and Order.
- In amateur sports, the number of persons in training is limited to 30 persons in outdoor sports facilities and to five persons indoors. It is not permitted to conduct competition simulations. Competitions can take place, but without spectators.

"We have tried to start as precisely as possible where we have identified a need for action and risks," explains Lord Mayor Klaus Weichel. "Only those measures will be issued from which we expect effects on the occurrence of infections in certain areas. For example, the temporary compulsory wearing of masks in educational institutions is aimed at preventing to bring the virus after vacation trips in fall break. The compulsory masks in the pedestrian zone, on the other hand, are aimed at an area where misconduct on the part of the population has been observed again and again in recent weeks. Weichel: Also at fresh air close standing together is not ordered, neither in front of pubs nor in front of stores. Therefore we have decided to introduce a mask obligation here".

For the time being, cultural events and the retail trade were deliberately excluded. According to Weichel, few or no violations of hygiene regulations are known to have occurred in these areas, so there is currently no reason to increase the requirements. "I would like to ask all retailers and also all event organizers to do everything necessary to ensure that this remains so," said Weichel. "It is the responsibility of each individual! It must not happen that in the end the great majority suffers from the

misconduct of a few. The head of the city also appeals again to all citizens to reduce contacts as far as possible: "As a rule of thumb for private meetings at home, the number of 10 people from a maximum of 2 households should be kept in mind. Anything more than this should be avoided as a matter of urgency. In case of doubt, one should rather do completely without. And please always keep a contact diary!"

Professional sports and thus the hygiene concept of the 1st FC Kaiserslautern are not affected by the order. However, the regulatory department responsible for the approval process will contact the club as soon as possible in order to take action. In particular, it will be a matter of banning spectators in the stadium again in the future.

How to deal with the Christmas market is still open. "There is agreement that in an infection scenario, as we are currently experiencing, we will not be able to conduct the Christmas market as it is currently planned," reports the Lord Mayor. However, a final decision as to whether and how the Christmas market can take place - and thus also opening stores on Sunday, November 29th - has not yet been made. "Here we would like to wait a few more days to see how the figures develop. The task force gave the green light for the remaining days of the "Barbarossa Land" (amusement park with rides) on the fairgrounds. It can remain in its present form, since it ends on Sunday anyway. However, the organizers' request for an extension will not be granted.

In principle this applies: All areas, which are not expressly covered by the general order of the city, are further regulated by state regulations. **In all probability, the decree will be published tomorrow and thus come into force on October 28.** "Officially, the measures will therefore only apply from Wednesday," explains the head of the city hall, particularly with regard to the compulsory wearing of masks in pedestrian zones and schools. "However, the situation is very serious, we must not lose any time. Please therefore voluntarily comply with the measures already now. Please be solidary and do your part to contain the infection. Only then can we prevent further restrictions or even a renewed lockdown.